

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 211664

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /009 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C: JSBLODGETT

APPROVED BY AF/C: TBUCHANAN

AF/EX: MRYAN (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211664

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FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ACOM, CM

SUBJECT: WATTS DEMARCHE

REF: YAOUNDE 3132

1. STRICTLY SPEAKING, LINK BETWEEN OUR NEED FOR WATTS AND SECRETARY'S AFRICAN INITIATIVES IS TENUOUS AT BEST. SEARCH FOR WATTS CONSIDERABLY PREDATES LUSAKA SPEECH. DEPT SUGGESTS YOU SOFT-PEDAL THAT APPROACH IN YOUR NOTE TO FONMIN.
2. YOU CAN SAY THAT WATTS RELAY FACILITY IS VITAL PART OF OUR EFFORTS TO UPGRADE OUR DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK IN AFRICA, TO MEET INCREASED NEED FOR SPEED AND EFFICIENCY GENERATED BY GROWING U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA.
3. IN VIEW OF OUR GENERALLY WELL-KNOWN CLOSE TIES WITH SUCH COUNTRIES AS ZAIRE AND GABON, CAMEROON WOULD BE MORE CREDIBLY CHARACTERIZED AS QUOTE ONE OF MOST FRIENDLY COUNTRIES IN REGION UNQUOTE, RATHER THAN FRIENDLIEST. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE211664
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JSBLODGETT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760325-0122
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760819/aaaaaqhb.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 76 YAOUNDE 3132
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WATTS DEMARCHE
TAGS: ACOM, CM
To: YAOUNDE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006